

CULTURE, ETHNICITY, & THE FAMILY
Spring 2008 (1/14/08--5/6/08)

Instructor: **Victor R. Wilburn**
Section: **7400:446-001 (Class # 14447) Undergraduate**
7400:546-001 (Class # 14449) Graduate
Class Meeting: Monday and Wednesdays only
1:30-2:45 p.m. (South Schrank, Room 229)
Office: Schrank Hall South, Room 215Q
Office Hours: **M-F 1:00pm - 1:30pm or by appointment**
Office Phone: 330-972-2678 Department: 330-972-7721 Email: wilburn@uakron.edu
Texts: Rogoff, B. (2003). The Cultural Nature of Human Development. New York, New York: Oxford University Press.

Lecture notes can be obtained from [Http://gozips.uakron.edu/~wilburn](http://gozips.uakron.edu/~wilburn)

Course Description: This course builds upon concepts and issues related to culture, human development, and family relations. An integrative approach to theory, research, and practice will be used to understand families and individuals in the context of culture.

Objectives: After completion of this course, the student should be able to execute the following tasks:

1. Identify beliefs, values, traditional practices of various ethnic groups.
2. Develop a greater understanding and appreciation of one's own cultural beliefs and values.
3. Better explain cultural beliefs in relation to the family and human developmental outcomes.
4. Critically explore the role of cultural diversity in understanding the individual, the family, and the community.

Evaluation

1. **Three exams will be given over the course of the semester (100 points)**. These exams will be averaged and will account for 100 points toward your total class points. Exam dates are indicated on the class calendar. **No** makeup exam will be given unless medical emergency (Instructor reserves the right to make final decision on validity of emergency or any other unique special circumstance). Makeups occur during finals week only. **Exam formats may consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.**
2. **Group Research Paper (50 points)**. Undergraduate students are expected to get into groups between 3 or 4 peers and identify some aspect of culture and the family (Graduate students are expected to work independently). Each student is expected to contribute equally in this project during preparation of research paper. In the event that any group member feels that another group member is not contributing equally to the preparation of the presentation, the student may come to the instructor and request that group members evaluate each others performance. In addition, the topic must be approved by the instructor and thoroughly researched using library sources. **The paper must be at least 15 pages, typed, double-spaced/12pt. Font and adhere to the APA style. A minimum of 20 references must be cited in this paper.** Because website citations are not necessarily scholarly, research papers must not exceed any more than two website citations.
3. **In Class Activities and Assignments (50 points)**. Several in-class activities will be given during the semester. **You must be in class at the time the activity is given to get credit since these activities cannot be made up.** Occasionally, it may be required of you to provide written explanations or summary of significant topics that are relevant to middle childhood and adolescent development. In addition, you will be expected to do article reviews which will make-up this section of evaluation.

Note. Any information turned in to me must be typed, proofread (for grammar, spelling), and stapled (if there is more than one page). Failure to follow these instructions will result in a loss of valuable points. For example, failing to staple the pages will result in a two-point reduction. Also, for a greater detail of academic expectations see the latter section of the syllabi which reflects instructor expectations for academic competence.

Grading

Exams	100 points	A =185-200pts.
Group paper	50 points	B+ =175-184pts.
Assignments	<u>50</u> points	B =165-174pts.
Total	200 points	C+ =155-164pts.
		C =145-154pts.
		D+=130-144pts
		D =120-129pts.
		F =below 120 pts

Graduate Students (GS): Grading scale for graduate students differ from undergraduate students. GS are expected to work independently on their group paper and produce a more academically proficient paper. In addition, they are expected to provide a presentation on the topic (instructor must improve topic). *The presentation must be 30 minutes (be sure to allow time for questions and answers). Presentation will be evaluated on the following criteria: (1) **Quality of content**. Students must adequately research topic using library articles/books (textbook content is not acceptable); (2) **Quality of presentation**. Students will be evaluated for 50 points (25 pts. for paper, 25 pts. for presentation).*

Style of teaching: This class will mainly consist of a lecture format. However, it will also consist of interactive learning through group process and exploratory learning through written critique of theory. In addition, you are encouraged to contribute ideas you have gained through reading, other course work, and personal experiences. In class lectures and activities reflect supplementation to individual student reading; it is not the instructor's aim to cover the totality of course books or lecture notes on the web.

Academic Dishonesty: Any intentional misrepresentation or attempt to gain undeserved, intellectual advantages; such as cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized possession of exams and the like. The University Policy as outlined in the student handbook will be followed in cases of suspected academic dishonesty.

Announcements: Occasional announcements will be made in class. Examples of these are schedule changes and assignment details. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure he/she receives such information. Therefore, it is imperative that students attend class regularly as the instructor will accept **NO** responsibility for information not received due to your absence from class. It is a good rule to network with peers in your class; this way if you have to miss class, you have someone you can call and retrieve missed information. The instructor is available to assist you with any questions you have with regard class lecture or the text but not to "catch-you-up" for missed class.

Class attendance: A class roll may be passed out daily; it is important that you sign the roll to indicate your presence. Students who are absent or fail to sign the roll more than three times will receive an automatic 15 point deduction toward their final grade in the class. Students absent or fail to sign the roll more than six times will automatically receive an "F" in the class.

Tentative Calendar for Culture, Ethnicity, & the Family
Spring 2008

Date	Topic for Discussion	Assignments
1/14,16	Introduction Understanding the Cultural Nature of Human Development <i>Chapter 1</i>	
1/21, 23, 28	MLK Day (1/21/08) Development as Transformation of Participation in Cultural Activities <i>Chapter 2</i>	
1/30	<i>1/30 Assignment 1 due: No in-class lecture</i>	
2/4, 6	Development as Transformation of Participation in Cultural Activities Continued <i>Chapter 2</i>	
2/11,13	Individuals, Generations, and Dynamic Cultural Communities <i>Chapter 3</i>	
2/18	Celebration of Knowledge (COK I) (Ch. 1,2,3)	
2/20, 25,	Child Rearing in Families and Communities <i>Chapter 4</i>	
2/27; 3/3	Developmental Transitions in Individuals' Roles in Their Communities <i>Chapter 5</i>	
3/5	<i>Assignment 2 due: No in-class lecture</i>	
3/10	Interdependence and Autonomy <i>Chapter 6</i>	
3/12	Celebration of Knowledge (COK II) (Ch. 4,5,6)	
3/17-23	Spring Break	
3/24, 26	Thinking with the Tools and Institutions of Culture <i>Chapter 7</i>	
3/31	<i>Assignment 3 due: No in-class lecture</i>	
4/2; 4/7; 4/14	Learning Through Guided Participation in Cultural Endeavors <i>Chapter 8</i>	
4/16, 21, 23, 28	Cultural Change and Relations among Communities <i>Chapter 9</i> Guest Speaker	
4/30	Celebration of Knowledge (COK III) (Ch. 7,8,9)	

Note: Please check the timetable periodically for updates

Culture, Ethnicity, and the Family
Assignment I
(Due by 1/30/08 before the start of class)

Identify research article(s) that address the issue of child rearing practices across cultures (minimum 2 articles). Review the articles and write a two page response reflecting key issues noted in the article as they pertain to child rearing practices, the article's utility to professionals, perceived strengths and weaknesses of the study. This assignment is to be provided to the instructor in a 3 ring binder with your name on the top front. Failure to follow instructions will result in loss of valuable points.

Article Critiques. Students are to identify one or two articles from a scholarly journal (see UA library website for details) and relevant topic based on instructor's assignment and write a two page critique in response to the journal(s). The following guidelines reflect an appropriate article critique for this class. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, grammatically correct, and reflect one inch margins in all directions. Review as many articles as you need to make a thorough response. The complete assignment consist of a copy of the assignment page, the written article critique, and a complete copy of the article(s) being critiqued. All three components must be turned in (and on time) to receive credit.

This will be a five point assignment. The following areas will be assessed in considering your score:

- _____ Neatness, grammar/spelling, follow directions (2 pts)
- _____ Ability to integrate and explore content interpreted from the articles in consort with your in class lecture or readings (3 pts)

CELEBRATION OF KNOWLEDGE I (Take-home section)
(Due 2/18/08 at time of class)

The following section is a take-home section which is worth 20 points. Focus your writing on clarity and organization of expression (5 pts), accuracy of information and elimination of unnecessary jargon (5 pts), and ability to integrate theory, in-class information, and research (5 pts). APA format and neat (5 pt). You are expected to write a 3 page mini research paper on the topic (double spaced 12 pt. font/one inch margins and in APA format). Also, you are to provide a complete hard copy of at least 3 research based articles used in your research paper (articles must be properly integrated and cited in the paper).

The following consist of a complete packet:

___ Assignment sheet

___ Typed response

___ Article(s)

Essay. Discuss the relationship between American culture and youth education. Focus your response on cultural factors (at least 3 factors) that directly or indirectly affect the challenge of educating children today and in such a complex culture. Remember, your views need to have a theoretically based, reinforced by research, and you must provide explanations of current events that reinforce your position.

Culture, Ethnicity, and the Family
Assignment II
(Due by 3/5/08 before the start of class)

Identify research article(s) that address the issue of rites of passage in cultures other than US (minimum 3 articles). Review the articles and write a three page response reflecting key issues noted in the article as they pertain to child rearing practices, the article's utility to professionals, perceived strengths and weaknesses of the study. This assignment is to be provided to the instructor in a 3 ring binder with your name on the top front. Failure to follow instructions will result in loss of valuable points.

Article Critiques. Students are to identify one or two articles from a scholarly journal (see UA library website for details) and relevant topic based on instructor's assignment and write a three page critique in response to the journal(s). The following guidelines reflect an appropriate article critique for this class. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, grammatically correct, and reflect one inch margins in all directions. Review as many articles as you need to make a thorough response. The complete assignment consist of a copy of the assignment page, the written article critique, and a complete copy of the article(s) being critiqued. All three components must be turned in (and on time) to receive credit.

This will be a five point assignment. The following areas will be assessed in considering your score:

- _____ Neatness, grammar/spelling, follow directions (2 pts)
- _____ Ability to integrate and explore content interpreted from the articles in consort with your in class lecture or readings (3 pts)

Culture, Ethnicity, and the Family
Celebration of Knowledge (Exam 2:01)
Spring 2008

This section is worth 100 pts

The following questions represent essay questions which relate to key themes discussed in chapters 4,5,& 6. Please respond to three of the six questions. Each essay needs to be at least two complete pages with at least three citations. Responses will be graded on the following criteria:

(1) **Accuracy and Quality of Information.** This category denotes the importance of content and the quality of arrangement in the essay. I generally look for the utility of the information expressed in a particular paper and the extent to which the writers have expressed content that is innovative.

(2) **Quality of Arrangement and Organization.** This category reflect the proper usage of grammar and writing strategy. I expect all papers to adhere to APA guidelines and avoid unnecessary jargon (writing of information with little relevance).

(3) **Overall Quality of the Paper.** This category deal with the instructor's overall interpretation of the big picture regarding the essays. In this section, consistency and uniformity throughout the essay is important. I generally investigate the consistency between what is noted as important factors in the introduction and the thoroughness of discussion in the body of the paper. **You must cite your arguments and make sure essay is in your own words.**

Question 1: Discuss at least two different examples of ways that cultures view and/or encourage universally recognizable developmental tasks or milestones. Examples of such milestones could include (but are not limited to) self-awareness, self care, sleeping through the night, self feeding, or self toileting.

Question 2: Discuss at least two good examples of differences in the ways in which cultures view age as a metric for development. Discuss the implications of this for adult-child interactions.

Question 3: Discuss occupational roles in different cultural communities. Reflect on how these roles pertain to the status of men and women in given cultural communities that you discuss.

Question 4: Give at least two good examples of cultural differences in teaching. Make note of the cultural tools that are used in teaching and learning. Relate these to broader cultural goals, themes, and/or environmental conditions.

Question 5: How can cultural change lead to conflict? Discuss either intergenerational conflict or conflict among or between cultural groups. Use examples from readings (i.e., book, research articles, videos).

Question 6: Give at least two good examples of how cultures promote cooperation or independence within their respective cultures.

FIVE POINT BONUS ASSIGNMENT (Due by 4/30/08)

Provide copies of five different culturally based poems that deal with the family or children. Poems must come from four different sources (i.e., internet, different books, etc.) and no more than two from the internet.

Culture, Ethnicity, and the Family
Assignment III
(Due by 3/31/08 before the start of class)

Identify research article(s) that address a particular ethnic culture (minimum 3 articles). Review the articles and write a three page response reflecting key factors and characteristics related to family interactions and/or practices. This assignment is to be provided to the instructor in a 3 ring binder with your name on the top front. Failure to follow instructions will result in loss of valuable points.

Article Critiques. Students are to identify one or two articles from a scholarly journal (see UA library website for details) and relevant topic based on instructor's assignment and write a two page critique in response to the journal(s). The following guidelines reflect an appropriate article critique for this class. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, grammatically correct, and reflect one inch margins in all directions. The complete assignment consist of a copy of the assignment page, the written article critique, and a complete copy of the article(s) being critiqued. All three components must be turned in (and on time) to receive credit.

This will be a five point assignment. The following areas will be assessed in considering your score:

- _____ Neatness, grammar/spelling, follow directions (2 pts)
- _____ Ability to integrate and explore content interpreted from the articles in consort with your in class lecture or readings (3 pts)

CELEBRATION OF KNOWLEDGE III (Culture, Ethnicity, & the Family) (Due 4/30/08)

You have been responsible for the readings regarding Chapters 7, 8, & 9. These chapters deal with a host of cultural and the family. Read all chapters and choose one topic that relates to content discussed in the chapters. Write a mini research paper (**Be sure to copy this page and turn in with your Celebration research paper!**).

Please be sure to follow all directions noted on this page....You are expected to write a 5 page mini research paper on your relevant topic (double spaced 12 pt. font/one inch margins and in APA format). Also, you are to provide a complete hard copy of at least 5 research based articles used in your research paper.

Typically, the evaluation of a research paper is based on the following criteria: (1) **Accuracy and Quality of Information**. This category denotes the importance of content and the quality of arrangement in a paper. I generally look for the utility of the information expressed in a particular paper and the extent to which the writers have expressed content that is innovative. (2) **Quality of Arrangement and Organization**. This category reflect the proper usage of grammar and writing strategy. I expect all papers to adhere to APA guidelines. (3) **Overall Quality of the Paper**. This category deal with the instructor's overall interpretation of the big picture regarding the research paper. In this section, consistency and uniformity throughout the paper is important. I generally investigate the consistency between what is noted as important factors in the introduction and the thoroughness of discussion in the body of the paper. (4) **Neatness and Professionalism Are Essential**. Check the syllabus and academic competence for comments in this area. *Lastly, be sure to check the instructor academic expectations for academic competency to minimize unnecessary point losses.*

The Celebration will be based on 100 pts. The following areas will be assessed in considering your score:

- _____ Neatness, correct punctuation, grammar/spelling (20 pts)
- _____ Accuracy and Quality of Information (20 pts)
- _____ Quality of Arrangement and Organization (20 pts)
- _____ Overall Quality of the Paper (20 pts)
- _____ Ability to follow instructions (20 pt)

- _____ Total Grade